



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2006 10 a.m.

Activities Decrease as the Romero Fire Nears Full Containment

For the last four days, fire crews have faced increasingly difficult conditions while taking suppression action on the Romero Fire. Now their efforts are paying off. Crews again held the fire to 764 acres, with no increase in acreage in two days. "This is an excellent example of what is possible when you get the right resources to the fire in a short amount of time," said Incident Commander Paul Summerfelt. "This fire had the potential to cover a lot of territory, but once winds died down and we were able to mobilize all of our resources, we kept it from becoming a large fire."

As resource needs have declined, many crews have been released. Two crews will be available for any hot spots that appear during the day. "It's very dry out there and we want to ensure all potential heat sources are extinguished before we are comfortable declaring the fire to be at 100% containment," stated Operations Section Chief Pruett Small. Helicopters will be available for support should the need arise.

Area homeowners are reminded of the importance of creating and maintaining defensible "Firewise" space around their houses. "This was not an isolated incident," stated Kristy Lund, Fire Management Officer for the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. "Fire has come to this area before, and it will come again. This time we were able to keep the fire up in the mountains, but that will not always be the case."

Visitors to the forest are advised that the Coronado is in Stage One fire restrictions, which means all fires, including charcoal fires, are prohibited except in developed recreation sites, in the metal grills or fire rings provided. Smoking is allowed in buildings, vehicles, or areas cleared of all debris for a diameter of three feet. Smokers should use their ashtrays, and never discard cigarette butts from open windows. Recreationists are asked to exercise extra caution on this holiday weekend.

Catalina State Park, where the firefighting effort has been based, was closed for safety reasons during the fire. The park will open when the last firefighters leave, which will probably be Friday morning. The Coronado National Forest is asking that people refrain from entering Marshall Gulch, Sabino Basin, the Sutherland Trail, Hutch's Pool, The Romero Trail, and other areas near the fire until Friday morning.

For more information: Coronado National Forest Fire Information, 520-388-8343.
Know Before You Go: For Fire Restrictions information, call 1-877-864-6985.
Visit our website: www.fireteam-sw.com/oltrogge/

TODAY'S FIRE FACTS

Acreage: **764** Containment: **95%** Total Personnel: **254**

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